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SB 3019 RELATING TO ENERGY PRODUCTION FACILITIES IN AGRICULTURAL DISTRICTS

Statement for
Senate Committee on
Economic Development and Energy and Natural Resources
Public Hearing - 7 March 1980

By
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SB 2371 would amend HRS Section 205-2, relating to the districting and classification of lands so as to include, within the uses permissible in the agricultural district, the installation and operation of facilities for the production of energy from wind. This statement on the bill does not reflect an institutional position of the University of Hawaii.

Energy is already produced from the wind in some places in the agricultural district by the use of windmills of traditional design for pumping water for stock. In parts of the agricultural district there would be little reason to discourage the installation of larger wind-energy generators to produce energy for other purposes. However, in some parts of the agricultural district, very large wind energy installations might be considered aesthetically detrimental.

We suggest that the installations and operation of wind-energy generating facilities in the agricultural district, other than those incidental to agriculture, should be subject to governmental regulation and to the requirements of the environmental impact statement system.